



The Steeple

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



AUGUST 2016

Remember that the Lord is great and awesome. Nehemiah 4:14

I had a great week hanging out at the **Surf Shack**, that is, **Vacation Bible School**. During the hottest days of the summer thus far, our new AC system worked marvelously. As I participated in each day's sessions, I thought how different our church would be if it were more like Vacation Bible School. Sure, we would have cool snacks like iced cookies in the shape of flip flops, but beyond this:

- Our congregation would be more diverse—populated with Hispanic and African Americans. Our church would be more representative of our neighborhood and heaven!
- Youth and young adults would form most of our leadership core. We could not offer a daytime VBS without the 23 youth and young adults who showed up at 9:30 a.m. each day! They could have skipped VBS and slept in, but they chose to be here. They chose to live out their faith. Our youth and young adults are the church today—not St. Paul of the future!
- We would practice radical hospitality because we expect new people to show up and when they do we would make them feel welcome. It is scary for new people to walk through our doors. Every single day of VBS (even Friday) you plan on having new children. Our goal is to integrate everyone into the VBS schedule immediately. And, we do!
- We would show up with a smile on our faces ready to plunge into worship. We might even include a few songs that have motions accompanying them. Movement gets those happy juices flowing.
- We would remember that Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is why our daily offerings went to the Mt. Vernon UM Children's Home. We also made stuffed crabs that were delivered to the children this week. The lives of children who are not part of our church or neighborhood are changed because we care in the name of Jesus!
- We would get chills as we sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit and the power of God's love coursing throughout the assembly. We would be reminded that Jesus told us to become like children if we expect to enter His kingdom!
- Instead of looking at our watches wondering when the worship service will be over, we would be like our children: ready on Friday for another week of Vacation Bible School. Because our God is great and awesome and worship is meant to be fun.

I guess my question is why aren't our churches more like Vacation Bible School? What is holding us back from changing? Maybe if our churches were more like Vacation Bible School, they would not be declining.

I want to thank those who prayed for us, those who donated items, those who helped, parents and grandparents who brought children, and those who came for the program on Saturday. A special thank you to Rene Bassett Butler for the Cardinal tickets and Christina & Matt Johnson for the Big Daddy Weave and Cardinal tickets that were distributed in a drawing to our helpers. Jamie Gwaltney led one of the calmest Vacation Bible Schools I've ever been a part of. Thank you, Jamie. Pastor Daryl!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Logan Sims** raised \$5,000 completing the 88-hour marathon race - MR340 - kayaking from Kansas City to St. Charles for the St. Louis charity Friends of Kids with Cancer. Congratulations! **PHOTO**
- Blessings on **Logan James Thatcher** and his family: parents Jason & Emily Thatcher and older brother, Jackson. On Sunday, July 24th Logan was baptized here at St. Paul. We pray that as Logan grows he will grow in the Lord as well.
- Congratulations to Nathan & Whitney Franks on the August 1st birth of a daughter, **Eleanor Rose Franks**. She weighed in at 8 lbs.7 oz. Her siblings are Noah & Caroline Franks, and her delighted grandmother is Tracy Franks! Congratulations!
- Remember to **be in prayer** for the folks who are working during each week this month to deliver Meals On Wheels to people in the area.
- Our prayers and deepest sympathy goes to those who have lost loved ones recently. To the family of **Jeppie Harris**, former neighbor of Pastor Daryl; the family of **LeRoy East**, father/father-in-law of Leona & John Hendricks; the family of **Don Sullivan**, former YF member of Pastor Daryl; the family of **Harold Boyd**, one of our Helping Hands families; the family of **Dave Kuechle**, father/father-in-law of Jess & Jake Toner; the family of **Richard LaTempt**, brother of Steven LaTempt, former member; the family of **Arthur Sheppard**, grandfather of Keith & Ashley Sheppard; and the family of **Jackie Tarantino**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of grieving.
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you to everyone for all of the cards, calls, visits, and prayers during my surgery and recovery. I am back at home and getting stronger everyday! God bless you all, **Ruth Champlin**
- **THANK YOU:** I would like to thank my dear friends at St. Paul for their cards, birthday cards, visits, food, and most of all your prayers. These things have been a great comfort to me. I treasure the forty years I was able to be with all of you serving the Lord. **Marilyn Cisler**
- **THANK YOU:** To the entire funeral luncheon team...thank you! A warm and heartfelt thank you to all the many volunteers that contributed to a delicious meal following mom's service. She would have loved the happy volume of fellowship. With appreciation, **Jill Taylor-Sullivan & the family of Carole Taylor**
- **THANK YOU:** To all at St. Paul: Thank you for the warm wishes and congratulations on my graduation from high school. As I look forward to the next chapter of my life, you will continue to be in my thoughts, my prayers, and my heart. I thank you for your gift and the breakfast, and I hope that our friendship and our fellowship can continue for a long time. Many thanks and much love, **Oliver Bacus**
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you for your donation of handmade stuffed animals from your VBS to the United Methodist Children's Home! Our goal remains the same—to be good stewards of your gift to provide hope, help, and healing to youth families in our care. Sincerely, **John Shadowens, President & CEO, UM Children's Home**





Vacation Bible School

I want to thank everyone for the vital role you have played in the ministry of the children of our church. To all who volunteered, thank you for participating in the amazing gift of God through the work you have done to make VBS such a success. You have demonstrated that God creates, helps, loves, calms, and sends, just like our wave words taught us throughout the week. To our church family, I want to say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, donations, money, and service. The VBS program was a success!

This year your children had an epic ride as they experienced an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that gave them the opportunity to discover ways to live out God's Amazing Love. They were surfers catching the wave on how to embrace the amazing love of God.

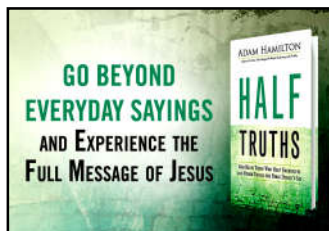
After a high energy opening of praise songs, the surfers made their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons revealed five wave words (create – help – love – calm – send) for following God's plan for our lives. Your children were taught Bible verses that will remind them that God is amazing and powerful, long after VBS is over.

We expanded on what they discovered by participating in a variety of activities: Crafts; Music; Science; Outdoor Water Fun; Yummy Snacks; Puppet Skits; and the "Finding Nemo" movie to help support their lessons about creating, helping, loving, calming, and sending.

We were blessed with an average of 45 children per day and 20+ youth/young adults to help lead each group or station. We were also blessed with many adults who were able to volunteer their time this year. Throughout our week, we were able to raise approximately \$145 for our mission project, the "United Methodist Children's Home."

So until next year's Vacation Bible School, may God bless you as much as you have blessed our children and me! **Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director**

SUMMER SMALL GROUP ON SUNDAYS AT 5 P.M.



Our small group study will be meeting this summer every other Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. in the church parlor. We next meet on August 7, & August 21. We are using the Adam Hamilton study called "Half Truths" which compares common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. **Please join us!**



CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING



Pick up *Quest*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps—it's available on top of the mailboxes across from the Church Office and on the wall in the church entryway. Camps for all ages are available at Little Grassy near Carbondale, East Bay near Bloomington, Beulah in Eldorado, and Epworth near Greenville. College students and adults might consider serving as counselors in our camps. Everything you need to know about being a camper or counselor is found in *Quest*.





Saturdays at St. Paul in AUGUST 5:00 P.M. Service



Join us on SATURDAYS at 5 p.m. for Awakening - St. Paul's contemporary worship service in a family friendly setting. We hope you will join us (bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!

Our AUGUST Speakers:

6th - Marlo Schiber

13th - Lindsey Rader

20th - Steve Whitlock

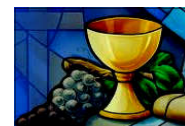
27th - Connie Hickerson

Sundays at St. Paul in AUGUST 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services



The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your lawn chair. Tailgate-At-Eight Fellowship with coffee, juice, and snacks is at 8 a.m. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always held in the sanctuary. **"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.**

7: 12th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion celebrated. Pastor Daryl continues preaching the sermon series, *Go for the Goal*. With Hebrews 12:1-3 as our guide, we discover how to become spiritual champions. We are in a spiritual marathon, not a sprint. Therefore, we must run the race of faith with perseverance. If you remember the fable of the tortoise and the hare, we are the tortoise who plugs along, fixing our eyes upon Jesus, and staying upon the path until we reach heaven's gates.



14: 13th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday. Pastor Daryl continues preaching the sermon series, *Go for the Goal*. With Hebrews 12:1-3 as our guide, we discover how to become spiritual champions. As you watch the Olympic races, you may notice that great athletes lean their bodies forward at the finish line. They take advantage of every edge to reach their goal. In the same way, we seek every opportunity to grow in faith so we may reach our goal of heaven.



21: 14th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl continues preaching the sermon series, *Go for the Goal*. With Hebrews 12:1-3 as our guide, we discover how to become spiritual champions. There are times when a coach pulls an athlete from the game and forces them to sit on the sidelines. Usually the coach is teaching the athlete a lesson. Sometimes, God corrects us whenever we stray from the path God has charted for us. While not of us loves those times of discipline, we need to understand God acts for our own good.

28: 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl continues preaching the sermon series, *Go for the Goal*. With Hebrews 12:1-3 as our guide, we discover how to become spiritual champions. During the 80s and 90s, some athletes took steroids and other supplements to help them recover more swiftly from injuries. As Christians, we supplement our strength with God's. We lean more and more upon God in order to make It through life.

September 4: 16th Sunday after Pentecost. Labor Day Sunday. Communion Celebrated. As human beings, our lives are intertwined. We benefit from the labor of others. Paul contends that nothing that we do in the name of the Lord is ever done in vain. This is important to remember as we sometimes consider whether the work we do within the church is valuable.





Nurse's Notes for AUGUST 2016 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - **John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

We have moved into August- the dog days of summer- which will then usher in the beautiful season of autumn come late September, my favorite time of year. A time of getting ready to send the kiddos back to school, getting back into the grind of transporting to different sports and school activities and looking forward to family time with the holidays that will be upon us before we know it. Parish nursing is about body, mind, and spirit, and this newsletter will focus on spirit and intentional love of our fellow members in the church, and also in the community in which we live.

Also in this upcoming season will be our presidential election and I think we are all aware that our country is divided on how best to continue. What can we do? Yes, we can all cast a vote, but right now, there are a few other things that we can decide to do to "love well." We can pause, sit back, and think before we speak or post any comments on social media. As believers, we are called to love, as we were loved. In 1 John 3:18 we are told, "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." In this upcoming season, could we all come together and decide to love each other well? Here are some suggestions, taken from the word of God, on how to make your little piece of the world a little better, a bit gentler, and a whole lot kinder! Did I mention that you have some Bible verses to look up?

- **Accept each other.** (Romans 15:7) We are all different- that is how God made us. Let's look for the true value in others- let's see them as Jesus does.
- **Be devoted to each other.** (Romans 12:10) This can be an example for friendships, marriage, congregation life and community life. As we devote ourselves to others in love, good things can happen- and strong relationships can develop. (It's hard to bicker over small things when you are busy trying to love and serve the other person.)
- **Be kind to each other.** (Ephesians 4:32). Nothing disarms those who are unkind like a kind response. Try this on facebook, instead of arguing or being so quick to post an opposite opinion.
- **Carry each other's burdens.** (Galatians 6:2) No one is completely independent. Carry the burdens of others- and they in turn will carry yours.
- **Comfort others.** (2 Corinthians 1:4). We have shared many losses this past month- losses of good friends and family members. One day, our Savior will return for us and we will be with Him forever. Let's comfort each other with those words.
- **Confess your sins to each other.** (James 5:16) Did you blow it this time? Did you hurt someone, either intentionally or unintentionally? Are you still fighting over something that has no eternal value? Go to that person and ask forgiveness so true healing can occur.
- **Forgive one another.** (Ephesians 4:32). Did someone come to you and confess a wrong doing? Are you now trying to decide how to make them see the error of their ways, and how horribly you were treated? Do you feel the need to tell others and see if they have an opinion? True forgiveness resists any idea of getting back or getting even. Let it go. Surely you remember the forgiveness you have received from Christ.
- **Greet each other!** (Romans 16:16) There are some lonely, broken people out there- all of us are included! It is very important to reach out and greet each other. Say hello to your neighbors. Call your parents and grandparents. Send a card or an email to a friend- or maybe a card of encouragement to your pastor.
- **Serve on another.** (Galatians 5:13) Our faith does not provide freedom to indulge in what we want. We are most like Jesus when we consider the needs of the other person as more important than our needs. Jesus is our example of the true servant.
- **Encourage one another.** (Hebrews 10:24). How can we stimulate others to love and good deeds of service? By being right there with them.
- **Pray for each other.** (James 5:16). I have had many older friends say to me- "why does the Lord keep me here? What purpose can I serve?" My answer is that God can use them as a prayer warrior- our greatest investment in another's life occurs when we pray for them.

Nurses Notes—Continued on Page 8



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"

August 01 Yankovich, Wanda
 August 01 Cincoski, Savannah
 August 02 Brown, Josh
 August 03 Tillery, Linda
 August 05 Scroggins, Ryan
 August 06 Dorsey, Norris
 August 06 Davis, Ava
 August 07 Roberts, Jessica
 August 09 Franks, Tracy
 August 09 Hale, Nic
 August 10 Mitchell, Lois
 August 11 Meyer, Mary
 August 11 Davis, Alex
 August 11 Skinner, Tyler
 August 11 Hall, Erin
 August 11 Shaffer, Gabriel
 August 12 Hall, David
 August 12 Helmkamp, Jaxson
 August 13 Blacklock, Elinor
 August 13 Garrison, Jennifer
 August 13 Brown, Brandie
 August 13 Herndon, Katie

August 14 Stewart, Jim
 August 14 Clark, Shirley
 August 14 Martin, Alicia
 August 15 Redden, Chandra
 August 16 Redden, Stephanie
 August 16 Emerick, Ryne
 August 17 Scoggins, Tracy
 August 17 Kasten, Andrea
 August 19 Uzzell, Alan
 August 19 Foss, Chance
 August 20 Harshbarger, Leta
 August 20 Hill, JoAnn
 August 20 Mortland, Gracie
 August 22 Standefer, Brooke
 August 23 Carn, Carol
 August 23 Herndon, Dave
 August 25 Rain, Bethany
 August 25 Hall, Emily
 August 26 Sitze, Terry
 August 27 Armon, Keith
 August 27 Scroggins, Logan
 August 28 Potter, Vi

August 28 Schiber, Noël
 August 29 Clouatre, Doug
 August 29 Seba, Lori
 August 29 Scroggins, Joanna
 August 29 Cameron, Kristin
 August 29 Redden, Danny
 August 30 Phelps, Karah
 August 31 Scroggins, Mike
 August 31 Sullivan, Juliana



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



August 04 Sullivan, Pat & Becky
 August 06 Moore, Duane & Sandy
 August 10 Croxford, Rod & Virginia
 August 12 Kissack, Bob Sr. & Joy
 August 12 McLain, Randy & Mindy
 August 13 Hendricks, John & Leona
 August 14 Cisler, Stan & Marilyn
 August 15 Atchley, Duane & Tammy
 August 17 Campbell, Steve & Sarah
 August 18 Hale, Bill & Amy

August 19 Yunker, John & Barbara
 August 20 Chester, Nathan & Lydia
 August 22 Bunt, Tim & Joni
 August 22 Sheppard, Keith & Ashley
 August 23 Sitze, Terry & Betty
 August 24 Gwaltney, Scott & Jamie
 August 26 Funke, Jim & Maggie
 August 29 Michels, Mike & Earline
 August 30 Betts, David & Lisa

Help us keep the Church directory information current!

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address. Also, remember to update us on your new phone number and/or email address. Thank you!




JULY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 7/31/2016	\$23491.00
Designated Giving:	through 7/31/2016	\$3176.50
	Capital Improvements	185.00
	Loose Change	135.00
	Flowers	98.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	55.00
	Memorials	2065.00
	Vacation Bible School	30.00
	Upper Room Donations	10.00
	Reimbursements	40.00
	Helping Hands	50.00
	Funeral Dinners	500.00
	2016 Steeple Postage	8.50
UM Children's Home	(VBS OFFERING)	146.00
Capital Campaign		1505.00
Total:		\$28318.50

**DEADLINE FOR
SEPTEMBER 2016
STEEPLE, Fri.,
AUGUST 19th!**

**Capital Campaign money received
as of 7-31-16: \$172,756.38**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

August's Loose Change Project is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This ministry assists in disasters in our country and throughout the world. Help is given for flood, tornado, hurricanes, and fire. In addition this agency supports ongoing programs in parts of the world that have nutrition and food supply problems. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

More Jesus

TIME


We have one couple signed up to lead **More Jesus Time** on **Sept. 11. Thank you.** We really need people to cover **Sept. 18, Sept. 25, and Oct. 2** because Debra Fansler is having two eye surgeries in September. It would help her greatly if she only had to teach Sunday School during this time. To volunteer, please call the Church Office, **259-5210**, or email info@stpaulwired.org.

AUGUST Ushers (10:30 a.m.):
Aug 7: Tracy Franks, Diane Murbarger
Aug 14: Tracy Franks, Norma Shaffer
Aug 21: Tracy Franks, Anita Dawson
Aug 28: Tracy Franks, **plus one more!**

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you will be a greeter or an usher!

Average Attendance for JULY 2016

Early Service	57
Late Service	44
Sunday School	36
Visitors	5
5 Awakening Services	37



AUGUST-Youth News

Psalm 136:26 "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."

Youth meet Sundays @6:30 p.m. at BUMC in the Youth Room! Contact Kevin Rader at (618) 303-0044 for all AUGUST Youth info!



Nurse's Notes - Continued from Page 5

- **Live in peace with each other.** (1 Thessalonians 5:13) Living in peace with each other can be challenging but it is an essential choice- go there often!

Chuck Swindoll said, "I believe there is no better way to make an impact on a world that's lost its way than to love each other."

Enjoy these days of summer '16. Love well. Pray for each other, and for our country. May God our caregiver, give us strength and compassion for each other- and may His unchanging love give us the longing to begin (or continue) to care for our families, friends and the strangers that we meet.

In His service,
Eileen

Sources: Chuck Swindoll, Insight for Living
Christian Caregiving, Kenneth C. Haugk
The Bible (NIV)

Welcome to our new bishop:



Frank J. Beard

Bishop Frank J. Beard served as the senior pastor of Castleton United Methodist Church prior to being elected to the Episcopacy. He has been elected five times to serve as a delegate to

General Conference, and six times to represent the conference at Jurisdictional Conference. He served as the chairperson of the Indiana delegation this year.

"Frank Beard brings a great deal of experience to the table as a leader of the local church, the Indiana Conference, and the General Conference. He is a godly leader filled with love and compassion for people. His leadership inspires me to be a better pastor and leader," said the Rev. Tony Alstott, pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church and delegation member.

"Dr. Frank Beard has been prepared by God to help lead the church in the 21st Century. His passion, genuine love of God, and commitment to the church is evident to all who look with a discerning heart," said the Rev. Dr. Reginald Lee, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, Indianapolis.

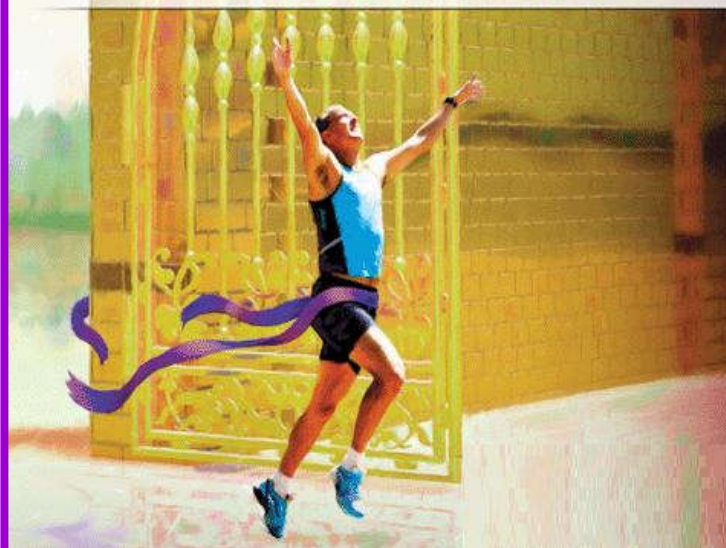
We look forward to working with our new bishop,
Frank J. Beard.



**FLOWER
CALENDAR**

Flower Calendar for 2016 is posted on the big bulletin board in the Education Wing. There is still ONE opening in Nov.! Please, fill it in! Thank you!

GO for the GOAL
Become a Spiritual Champion



Throughout August, Pastor Daryl continues a 6-part sermon series, *Go For The Goal*, based on Hebrews 12.



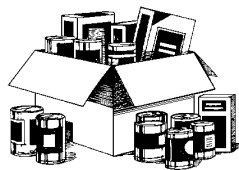
Food and School Supply Collection---

Each year in the summer the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of school supplies and a food drive. Due to a suggestion from one of the school nurses who help disburse the school supplies, we began collecting the supplies and food earlier. **It started July 10th, with members of the Outreach Ministry Team distributing bags and information at the end of both services, and continues through August 7th.** This is so school supplies can be distributed to the children before school starts.

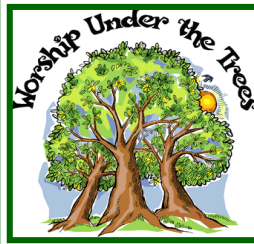
The school supplies go to schools in the districts of Bethalto, Roxana, and Wood River/East Alton. These are then distributed to children who need supplies which families cannot provide. Paper, crayons, scissors, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed. Stores which sell the supplies have school lists for reference. Place the supplies in the coat area/hallway where we traditionally gather items for various collections.



We will distribute food collected to the two area food pantries: Operation Blessing in Wood River and Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills. These are the two food pantries to which our church refers people for food. There is always a heavy demand for food from the pantries. Their help often makes it possible to feed a family until the next income arrives or food stamps are available. The pantries continue to face increasing numbers of requests due to the rise in prices and difficulties in our economy. Any amount we give is always appreciated.



The school supplies and food will be distributed the week of August 7th.



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH

AMPHITHEATER

at 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 5th-SEPTEMBER 4th

"TAILGATE AT 8" (T8) @8 a.m.

In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary.

Your talent is God's gift to you
What you do with it is your gift back to God

If you would like to share your talent during the summer services, please call, text, or e-mail Eldon.

[217-415-9541 or apha_1@yahoo.com]



The Schnucks eScrip program continues and is based on the amount of money people spend at any Schnucks. **All one needs to do is show the cashier their key**

fob or plastic card during check-out to credit St. Paul. THIS IS NOT A CREDIT CARD. Please remember, NO PURCHASE IS TOO SMALL to credit St. Paul. It all adds up! Sign up for your very own card today to help with this ongoing fund raiser. Our total for the program for the first 6 months of 2016 is **\$140.04.** All you have to do is shop at Schnucks. If you want more information or to sign-up and get your own card, contact **Susie Pruetzel, 660-7375** today!



We Say Goodbye To A Dear Friend...

Emma D. Norris, 89, passed away at 1:49 p.m., Sunday, July 10, 2016, at Rosewood Care Center in Alton, one day before her 90th birthday, with her family by her side.

She was born July 11, 1926, in Wood River, the daughter of Claud & Hattie (McClelland) Holcomb. She married Charles D. Norris on August 24, 1946, at the Bethalto Methodist Church. He preceded her in death on May 3, 1993.

Emma attended Bethalto and East Alton/Wood River High Schools graduating in 1944. She worked for John Mull Insurance until the time of her retirement. With her husband, they retired to "The Hill" in Springville, TN. She returned to Bethalto after his death.

She was a member of the Bethalto United Methodist Church. She enjoyed embroidering, crocheting, sewing, and planning class reunions. She loved her family and the St. Louis Cardinals, and when she had the two together, she was her happiest.

She is survived by two sons, Michael (Chris) Norris, Stephen (Beth) Norris; grandchildren, Jarrett (Kelsey), Drew (Jennie), Makinsey (Mike), Kristen (Rob), Jake (Britnie), Kyle; great-grandchildren Claire, Mattie, Lakin, Macgregor, Micah, Owen, Audrey, Kodie, and Adelyn; sister-in-law, Aileen (Mel) Tiek; brother-in-law, Max (Betty) Norris; and many nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Floyd (Bernie) Holcomb, and brothers-in-law, Marion (Carol) Norris and Jack (Rita) Norris.

¹⁰ I could hardly contain my joy in the Lord when I realized you have started to show your care for me once again.

Since you have not had the opportunity to show how much you cared until now, I want you to know how it touched me.

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need. I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances. ¹² I know how to survive in tight situations, and I know how to enjoy having plenty. In fact, I have learned how to face any circumstances: fed or hungry, with or without. ¹³ I can be content in any and every situation through the Anointed One who is my power and strength. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, it was admirable of you to participate in my affliction.

Philippians 4 The Voice

Whether we called her Emma, Doris, Nan, Aunt Emmy, or Nin, we are gathered here to celebrate the life of this self-described *simple woman*. She loved us and we loved her in return.

As much as we might like to think of our lives as being *simple*, unless we live in a cave or on a desert island our lives are pretty complicated. There is this big hole in our lives that was occupied by this person. As Beth read Emma's own words, I'm sure that it sparked our reflections about our relationships with her and reminded us of sayings or stories that captured that relationship. It made us more than a little sad to think that we won't be making more memories together. That is the sting of death.

Doris thought of herself as simple in the way my own grandmother did. She didn't do anything that would bring her acclaim outside of her family or circle of friends. Like so many, she loved her Lord and served Him in her church—Bethalto United Methodist Church—cared for her family, cheered for the Cardinals and spent time with friends. Her hobbies were shared by many women of her generation: embroidering, crocheting, and sewing. Her life was *simple* and she liked it that way.

The fact that Doris lived a *simple* life doesn't mean that it was an unremarkable one. Many of us here can trace the values that guide our lives, the traditions we keep, and the lessons we share with our children to this *simple* woman. She taught us right from wrong, shared the power of love, and set our feet upon the path of faith. This *simple* woman and millions like her represent all that is great about our nation.

Because he had been busy preaching the gospel and planting churches throughout the world, Paul had lost touch with the church at Philippi. Members of the church had collected personal items—probably food, paper and pen—and sent them to him in prison. Paul was so happy that they had reconnected with each other.

Throughout this book, Paul gives thanks for the joy that is his in Jesus Christ. This joy is more valuable than any precious jewel. More lasting than any Roman monument. In verse 4 of this chapter, Paul says: **4 Most of all, friends, always rejoice in the Lord! I never tire of saying it: Rejoice!**

I knew Nin mainly from those times she would come to our church to watch Kyle perform in our Christmas programs or sing in Heavenly Harmony choir. As I prepare for these services, I always try to think of what verses of Scripture might best capture a person's life. And as I was reading her obituary, it struck me that she was a *simple* woman in the same sense that Paul was a *simple* man.

Both understood that life was filled with ups and downs, times of plenty and want, great joys and deep sorrows. Still, in the midst of it all is Jesus—the One who promises to be our companion and friend. The One who never forsakes us. The One who walks with us through every step of our journey.

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We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Carole Ann (Brown) Taylor, 81, passed away, peacefully, surrounded by family, at her home of 52 years, at 2:22 p.m. Saturday, June 25, 2016.

Born October 19, 1934, to Ross & Edna (Yocom) Brown in Decatur, IL, she grew up in Stonington, graduating in 1953 from Stonington High School.

She married Norman Eugene Taylor, her high school sweetheart, there, on July 15, 1956, and shared nearly forty years of marriage before his death on May 3, 1996. They moved to Rosewood Heights in 1963, as Norman, a physician specializing in family medicine, joined a newly established primary care practice.

Carole lived a life of joy and service to her community. Carole was a dedicated member of St. Paul United Methodist Church for fifty-three years, and served in many volunteer capacities, most recently as the Chair of the Memorials Committee. She was actively involved in the Alton Christian Woman's Club, serving as the Chairperson of this local chapter of Stonecroft Ministries at the time of her death. She was a member of the Illinois State Medical Society Alliance (ISMSA) for fifty-six years and served on its board for twenty-five years; she served four terms as the President of the Madison County Medical Alliance. She was a Girl Scout Leader; Cub Scout Den Mother; and a secretary of Job Daughters-Bethel 88. In later years, she lovingly supported her grandchildren in sports and other pursuits.

Carole's warm hospitality and generosity made her home a destination for the friends of her children and all she met. She hosted visiting missionaries and speakers; Bible study groups; Rotary Club holiday parties; and the occasional fish fry. She loved to entertain guests and her dining room hosted many family dinners and gatherings.

Carole is survived by her four children, Jill (Taylor) Sullivan & William Sullivan of Hudson, Massachusetts; Judy (Taylor) Woods & Steve Woods of Alton; Jim & Karen (Wade) Taylor of Edwardsville; Jennifer (Taylor) Fix & Robert Fix of Burleson, Texas; as well as by five beloved granddaughters, Mallory (Taylor) Sidarous & Matt Sidarous of Edwardsville, Vanessa (Taylor) Paradee & Steven Paradee of Edwardsville, Katelyn (Woods) Profancik & Nick Profancik of St. Louis, Erin Woods of Alton, Juliana Sullivan of Hudson, Massachusetts; step grandchildren, Angela Fix of Chuluota, Florida, Jill (Fix) Sucha and Tim of Crowley, Texas; she is blessed with four great-grandchildren, Isaac and Leah Sidarous, Elaina, and Taylor Paradee; step great-grandson, Matthew Fix; brother, Gary Brown & Carol (McKinney) of Taylorville; sister-in-law, Jeannie (Taylor) Klay & Roy Klay of Wayne, Michigan; nieces, Cheryl (Klay) Walsh of Howell, Michigan, Diane (Brown) Reid of Taylorville; nephews, Kris Klay of Gaylord, Michigan, Doug Brown, and Gary Ross Brown of Taylorville; and many great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Eugene Taylor, MD; parents, Ross & Edna Brown; and in-laws, Charles & Virginia Taylor.

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered: love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives: do good anyway.

If you're successful, you win false friends and make true enemies: try to succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow: be good anyway.

Honesty and frankness will get you nowhere: They make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

People favor underdogs, but they follow top dogs: fight for some underdogs anyway.

What you spend days building may be destroyed overnight: do it anyway.

People really need help but they attack you if you try to help them: try anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you get kicked in the mouth: give the world the best you have anyway.

Karl Menninger, one of the world's most renowned psychiatrists, wrote this piece. For me, these words capture Carole's life.

Since the vote of Great Britain to exit the European Union, the news has been filled with the turmoil in stock markets worldwide. We act as if our riskiest investments in life are in the stock market. I understand how this event may impact many of us monetarily. My wife is fond of saying that money is only pictures of dead presidents on paper.

The stock market isn't the riskiest investment we make as human beings. No, far riskier is the investment of our lives in other people. Carole was no naïve Pollyanna. She was doctor's wife who often saw people at their worst. She understood that sometimes people disappoint us, fail us, or even attack us.

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Carole Taylor Obituary - Continued from Page 11

Still, Carole invested heavily in other people: through her family, her friends, her Bible study group, Christian Women’s Club, her church and other organizations. We don’t have to read a quarterly statement to see the result of Carole’s investment because all of us gathered here today are her dividends. We are better people because of the love that she poured into our lives. Carole took seriously Jesus’ command that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. She was a relentless do-gooder.

Too often that term “do gooder” is used in a negative sense; denoting someone who is hypocritical. That is unfortunate. I think of this term in relationship to Ephesians 2:8-9 where Paul says:

⁸⁻⁹ For it’s by God’s grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God’s gift, pure and simple. You didn’t earn it, not one of us did, so don’t go around bragging that you must have done something amazing. ¹⁰ For we are the product of His hand, heaven’s poetry etched on lives, created in the Anointed, Jesus, to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago.

Paul is quite clear that we have been saved by grace through faith, but we have been saved for a grand and glorious purpose: to do good works. These works are not designed to puff up our egos, but rather to glorify our God. These are works that only we with our unique personalities and creative gifts may do.

Psalm 103 was Carole’s favorite psalm. It was the one she always asked me to read to her before we prayed. Let me share just a few verses of this psalm from The Voice translation:

³ Despite all your many offenses, He forgives and releases you. More than any doctor, He heals your diseases. ⁴ He reaches deep into the pit to deliver you from death. He crowns you with unfailing love and compassion like a king. ⁵ When your soul is famished and withering, He fills you with good and beautiful things, satisfying you as long as you live. He makes you strong like an eagle, restoring your youth.

The psalm teaches humility by reminding us that all of us have sinned and fallen short, but we have a gracious God who has saved us. God has pulled us up from the miry pit of our sin and placed us upon the solid ground at the foot of the cross. And, we are thankful. We are so thankful that we never tire to telling others how God saved us. We never tire of loving others as God has loved us.

Carole Taylor poured out her life into the lives of those around her because her faith was an ever flowing stream of grace. She forgave freely because she had been forgiven much. She never gave up on people because she looked at everyone through the eyes of Jesus who never gives up on us. She lived with hope because Jesus had conquered death and given her eternal life. There was truly nothing left to fear!

Please keep her family, members of her Bible study group, the medical community, participants in Christian Women’s Club, and her church family in your prayers. We mourn—not for Carole—but for us. Our loss is great! Pastor Daryl

Emma Norris Obituary—Continued from Page 10

The key to a simple life is found in verse 13: **¹³I can be content in any and every situation through the Anointed One who is my power and strength.** You see, the simple person recognizes that Jesus is all we need.

Paul recognized that we mourn when our loved ones leave this earth, but he reminded us that we do not mourn as those without hope. We mourn as those who understand that when Doris fell asleep on this earth for the last time, she woke up in heaven! And, there Jesus continues to be her power and her strength. That is what she believed as a simple woman. May this belief of a simple woman give us all comfort today and in the days to come.

Please keep Steve, Beth, and Kyle Norris and all of Doris’ family & friends in your prayers. Pastor Daryl





ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Mission Possible

"THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" MATTHEW 19:26

UNDERSTANDING & GIVING TO MISSION POSSIBLE

The following information is provided to clarify any misconceptions about our Mission Possible campaign and to further clarify how one might give to the cause. **Mission Possible** is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address some much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The primary target of the campaign is the replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning system (HVAC) as well as other much needed items for our church building and senior parsonage. We do this in large part as we consider the future of the ministry of St. Paul UMC and the over 50 diverse ministries that radiate from our church home, and as we consider the role our church building will play in future ministry.

The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. So if you were absent or did not give to the campaign during that time, but now feel led to participate with your financial gifts, there is still plenty of time to participate. **In order that we can know where we stand with pledges, we ask that you fill out a commitment card (which is available in the church narthex or by calling the church office) if you plan to give to the Mission Possible Campaign.**

Providing your gift(s):

- If you are interested in a one-time gift, send the donation to the church or place it in the Sunday offering, **but please be sure to note Mission Possible (or CFC for Capital Fund Campaign) on the check memo line/ offering envelope.**
- You can also give online through our website.
- You can give using your credit card when you provide that information to the church office.
- You can give by cash or check.
- You can also provide financial contributions via securities, real estate, personal properties, or an estate gift by contacting the church office or Bob Blacklock.

Beginning in **January 2016**, you will place the designated amount for "Mission Possible" gifts on the **Capital Campaign** line on your offering envelopes. Donations toward the expenses of our Church Operations (i.e. the General Budget) would go on the **Undesignated** line as always. What was Capital Improvements, funds meant for unexpected major expenses, is now labeled **Building & Grounds Improvements** on the 2016 envelopes.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office for clarification.

IMPORTANT

Please, look for the MISSION POSSIBLE in red on the outside of any envelopes from St. Paul UMC for timely information regarding our Capital Fund Campaign!



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY**Mission Possible**

"THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" MATTHEW 19:26

MISSION POSSIBLE: "LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!"

As this update is written (7/17/16) we take time to express our gratitude and appreciation for the faith and financial efforts put forth by the St. Paul UMC family. We are moving toward meeting our dream of renovating the church and parsonage so that we can continue to move forward in our Christian mission in this community, in the near and distant future!

As to the Main Church Building (Priority 1)

At this point the air conditioning is installed and running smoothly, providing us with a more even and efficient cooling than ever before. The window units are out and have been given to members of the congregation in need of some cooling during the hot summers. Sometime this month a contractor will install chain link fences surrounding our three new A/C outdoor units for protection from vandals and thieves. Our contractor (Sigman) will return sometime this month or next to finish the heating side of the work and further provide for some zoning within our church for heating and cooling. The ceilings and electrical work are complete and provide not only much brighter and efficient lighting but access to ceiling for future projects, yet unknown. The security system has been installed, with the exception of the video access equipment at the front and back doors (coming in the near future), and will provide us with camera coverage in: 5 areas outside, 1 area inside, 1 motion detector in the main hallway, and 3 panic buttons for silent emergency signals to the Madison County Sheriff's office. Some painting has taken place and will continue this month as well as the replacing of the carpet in the main hallway and cloak rooms of the church. The bell tower windows were recently replaced with new windows which certainly add to the beauty of our church bell tower and the overall look of the outside of our church. LED lights have been installed and will continue to be installed on the outside areas of the church replacing the old halogen bulbs and equipment, for longer lasting and more energy efficiency. The goal for modernizing our technological approach to worship services has reached an obstacle as we have, due to cost, had to re-think or re-create our approach to a sanctuary monitor. However, we are dedicated to continuing to look at this priority. Finally, the "squirrel windows" (damaged by previous infestations of squirrels in the church) are being scheduled through a local contractor for replacement.

As to the Sr. Parsonage (Priority 2)

After our May church workday we discovered an immediate need to elevate the priority of replacing the parsonage roof, as we discovered holes and bad spots in the roof and decking. In May, the roof was replaced by a local contractor. The fence post, to replace a damaged post in the parsonage fence, has been received and will be installed shortly if not already taken care of. Trustees are moving forward with a contractor to fix the crack in the basement wall before we have any serious water damage issues. We are also moving forward with addressing the wood floors, replacing the TV room carpet, TV room ceiling and lights, re-painting the main floor bathroom, and putting in window coverings throughout the house. Unfortunately, when we began to investigate increasing the heating in the basement, to make it more comfortable, we discovered a cracked heat exchanger in the furnace. Since both the furnace and A/C are 25 yrs. or older the Trustees elected to replace both items. Therefore, we are currently working with Sigman to accomplish this task. The purchase of a new church van is on hold until most of the above work is complete and we can ascertain where we are budget wise.

Financially, because of your generosity and a 0% \$71,000 loan from the Endowment Fund we have been able to meet our costs from within up and until the June payment where we had to draw on our construction loan to the tune of \$38,000. This means a significant amount of our total project has been paid for through your generous giving and the generosity of the Endowment Committee. Our goal is to complete the work with as little outside expense as possible so that we can continue the tradition of our church toward being "debt free." This of course can only be accomplished through your continued generosity and prayers. Praise be to God for this rebirth of St. Paul UMC! **Yours in Christ, St. Paul UMC Board of Trustees**